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**The Daily
Summary**

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LAOS: US civilian pilot Emmet Kay was released by the Pathet Lao today, setting the stage for the first phase of prisoner exchanges called for by the 1973 Lao accord. ☐ Page 11

Lao Communists Free US Pilot

US civilian contract pilot Emmet Kay, the only American prisoner the Pathet Lao have admitted holding was released today after more than 16 months of incarceration. He was flown from Sam Neua via British embassy aircraft to Vientiane, where he was turned over to US authorities.

Kay's release sets the stage for the beginning tomorrow of the first phase of

prisoner exchanges called for by the 1973 Lao accords. The initial exchange will occur in communist-controlled territory on the Plaine des Jarres in north Laos.

According to coalition government spokesmen, the non-communist side will hand over seven Lao nationals and 173 North Vietnamese prisoners. For their part, the Pathet Lao will release 20 Lao nationals and 150 Thai volunteers. ☐

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